



Arab Families Working Group

Arab Families and Youth:

A Century of War, Migration and Displacement

Technical Report to the International Development Research Center

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This is the final Technical Report for the Arab Families Working Group IDRC project funded from 2007-2011. AFWG was founded in May 2001 and is now over ten years old. AFWG celebrated its 10th anniversary with a conference/workshop at the Rockefeller Center in Bellagio, Italy, in March 2010. To our knowledge, AFWG is the longest-running research group in the Arab world that focuses on collaborative, comparative, interdisciplinary research on Arab families and youth. Our focus has been on Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine and their diasporas in the USA and Canada. Parallel to our research trajectory, AFWG has committed to outreach to various stakeholders. For over 5 years, AFWG has conducted Stakeholder workshops with NGO's, scholar/activists and related interested professionals in Egypt, Lebanon, and Palestine to share our work and to engage in dialogue over their interests and concerns. In addition, for over four years, AFWG has extended its work to training new generations of scholars through workshops designed to teach proposal writing and research design (the focus of our current Ford Foundation grant), through including graduate students at Core Group meetings, and through inviting graduate students to the Bellagio meeting where their work was work-shopped. In addition, AFWG has mentored numerous graduate and undergraduate students over the past 10+

years in their capacity as AFWSG student assistants or graduate student researchers (GSR). Invariably, they learned critical research skills, analytical skills, as well as technical and management skills. Many, if not most, ended up asking for letters of recommendation from AFWG Coordinator, Suad Joseph, or other AFWG Core Group members. A number went on to graduate school and became academic or professional researchers. AFWG also has made consistent effort to make its research available to the community of scholars, students, professionals, NGO's and government agencies through workshops, conferences, our website, and through translation of key works into Arabic for free public dissemination on the internet, and through brochures and briefs.

The heart of AFWG's work, however, has been research. The first several years of AFWG were dedicated to developing the AFWG framework for researching Arab families and youth. That framework is represented in AFWG's Volume I: Framings: Rethinking Arab Family Projects which is on the AFWG website. The second period was devoted to empirical research, resulting in well over a dozen projects carried out in Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine, the USA and Canada. The empirical research was completed in 2010/11. Most of 2011 was dedicated to data analysis and writing. This effort was brought together in the March 2011 Bellagio residency in which Core Group members presented their research to each other in preparation for AFWG's Volume II: No More Forever: Youth, Family, and the Politics of Intimacy in a Changing Arab World. Suad Joseph and Penny Johnson are co-editing this volume. The expectation is that it will be submitted for publication review by the of Summer 2012.

AFWG has been funded by IDRC since 2001. Other key funders of AFWG have included the Ford Foundation, Cairo office, and the Population Council, Cairo office. Small, but pivotal, start-up grants came from UNICEF, Cairo, and the Social Research Center at the American University in Cairo. Throughout this period, AFWG has been co-housed at the American University in Cairo which has given AFWG an office since 2001, and the University of California, Davis. UC Davis has supported AFWG through Suad Joseph's LAB, and with significant matching funds in the form of works-study grants, computers, servers, grant management, and technical service.

Since very detailed reports were submitted annually from 2007-2010 and quarterly throughout 2011, this report gives an overview of the work carried out in 2011.

In January, 2011, the Arab Families Working Group launched a multi-pronged project designed to disseminate the group's research on Arab families and youth. The project is funded by IDRC's Supplement II for AFWG, specifically to hire a Senior Writer/Communications Specialist to work on this media/communication/dissemination project. The project, entitled, ***AFWG Messaging Project 2011 (AMP11)***, had a two-fold mission: 1.) To amplify AFWG's presence as a source for policy dialogue among scholars, policy-makers, and members of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's); and 2.) To enhance AFWG's contributions as a source of research on Arab families and youth for scholars, students, and the general public. Following is a report on the accomplishments of AMP11, covering January to December 2011.

AMP11 was preceded by the hiring of Senior Writer and Communications Specialist, Steve Slatten. Mr. Slatten's background was well-suited to the AFWG position. He holds a

Bachelor's Degree in Social Science from the University of California at Berkeley and a Master's Degree in Social and Public Policy from Georgetown University. He has corporate marketing and writing background. In 2008, he was selected as the Company-Wide Top Marketing Associate at Dell, Inc. in Austin, Texas and, for seven years, he owned and operated an on-line political commentary newspaper based in Washington, D.C. In addition, AFWG is staffed by a Graduate Student Researchers (GSR) in Davis, several undergraduate Interns, and a Graduate Student Assistant (GSA) in Cairo housed at the American University in Cairo where AFWG has had an office since 2001.

AMP11 consist of four phases: 1.) Foundation; 2.) Launch; 3.) Expansion; 4.) Engagement.

FOUNDATION: OVERVIEW

This phase consisted of these tasks: First, we established benchmarks for AMP11 and converted those Benchmarks into calendar format (send to IDRC in June 2011). Second, a survey of AFWG's comprehensive body of work was carried out. Third, staff familiarized themselves with the research and specialization areas of each Core Member. Fourth, ten AFWG essays, papers, and journal entries were converted into ten separate policy briefs. Fifth, the AMP 11 was presented to members of the AFWG Core Group at the 2011 AFWG Conference in Bellagio, Italy. The Senior Writer, GSR, GSA, and Interns all worked on various phases of the AMP11.

FOUNDATION: IMPLEMENTATION

The specific tasks that were accomplished during the Foundation Phase were as follows:

1.) Benchmarks were developed in February 2011 for the work to be completed on this project. Each of these Benchmarks was designed with both specific goals in mind. That is, the project supervisors remained cognizant of the fact that AMP11 was a significant undertaking which needed to be parceled into smaller components. Thus, the Benchmarks were designed to have a series of daily, weekly, and monthly goals. Once the Benchmarks were established, they were circulated to the AFWG Core Group and to IDRC for comment. Once final approval was given, the Benchmarks were placed into the format of a weekly, monthly, and annual calendar.

2.) AFWG's research was reviewed and content selected for use in the project. Similar to a Literature Review, AFWG's entire catalog of essays, volumes, and papers was reviewed for possible conversion to briefs, brochures, and other forms of messaging. The selections were presented to the Core Group for their comment and suggestion. Most content was selected from the following AFWG published sources: *Framings: Rethinking Arab Family Projects* and *JMEWS: Journal of Middle East Women's Studies*. Additionally, submitted and in preparation papers by various members of AFWG's Core Group of Scholars were reviewed. The purpose of the content review during the Foundation Phase was two-fold: 1.) Thematic elements of AFWG's body of work were identified and quantified. 2.) Relevant AFWG scholarly work was identified to be converted into policy briefs.

3.) The AFWG Core Group consists of the following individuals: Lamis Abu Nahleh, Ibrahim Elnur, Hoda Elsadda, Omnia El Shakry, Barbara Lethem Ibrahim, Islah Jad, Penny Johnson, Suad Joseph, Ray Jureidini, Mona Chemali Khalaf, Eileen Kuttub, Jihad Makhoul,

Annelies Moors, Nadine Naber, Martina Rieker, and Zeina Zaatari. Each Core Group member's academic background and area of research was reviewed. The purpose of this review was to define and quantify the diversity of AFWG's academic foundation, framework for the AMP11, and appropriate venues for dissemination of AFWG work (such as Wikipedia, YouTube etc.).

4.) Eleven of AFWG's essays/papers/journal entries were converted into 3-5 page policy briefs. These briefs are designed for distribution to scholars, policy-makers, and NGO's. The impetus behind these briefs is to condense the essence of each longer piece of work into papers that can be read quickly by opinion-leaders and opinion-makers.

The titles of the briefs are:

Agendas: Consider the Source for Research on Arab Families by Suad Joseph and Martina Rieker

Arab Youth Crisis: Targeted Reforms Needed by Barbara Ibrahim, Penny Johnson (Zeina Zaatari, one of original authors stepped down as co-author of brief)

Male Migration and the Lebanese Family: Impact on the Wife Left Behind by Mona Chemali Khalaf

Displaced Arab Families: Mothers' Voices on Living and Coping in Post-War Beirut; by Jihad Makhoul (original authorship included Mary Ghanem)

"Family-Oriented" State Rhetoric Creates Enmeshment by Suad Joseph, Penny Johnson, and Annelies Moors

The Politics of Group Weddings in Palestine: Political and Gender Tensions by Islah Jad

Youth, Service and Political Mobilization in Egypt by Barbara Ibrahim

Transnational Families Under Siege: Lebanese Shi'a in Dearborn, MI, and the 2006 War on Lebanon by Nadine Naber

Domestic Service in Lebanon: A Brief History by Ray Jureidini

Geographies of Lebanese Families: Women as Transnationals, Men as Nationals, and Other Problems with Transnationalism by Suad Joseph.

Wedding and War: Marriage Arrangements and Celebrations in Two Palestinian Intifadas. By Penny Johnson, Lamis Abu Nahleh, Annelies Moors.

5.) An overview of AMP11 was presented to the Core Group at the 2011 AFWG Conference at the Rockefeller Foundation in Bellagio, Italy. The Core Group discussed the objectives and structure of AMP11. Suggestions from the Core Group were incorporated into AMP11. Media taken at this conference consisted of digital photos of and video interviews with AFWG Core Members; some of these media were then incorporated into the AFWG website.

6.) The GSR hired for this project was Rusha Latif. Interns hired for this project were: Meghan McCullough; Adessa O'Shana; Helen Min; Rima Akas. In Fall 2011, Kevin Smith and Rusha Latif worked as GSR's and Myriah Nottage as Intern for AFWG. In January 2012 Anna Goldberg joined the AFWG team. Throughout the year, Randa Osman, in her fourth year as GSA, continued to work with the AFWG project from the Cairo office. In addition, undergraduate IT students were hired to assist with the website redesign. The staff all worked under the supervision of Suad Joseph, AFWG Coordinator. The staff worked on:

a. **Developing and executing an AFWG YouTube presence.**

This presence was facilitated by the creation of an AFWG YouTube Channel. The AFWG Channel was designed to attract and retain web traffic via the use of short video clips featuring interviews with members of the AFWG Core Group. This channel links to the new AFWG website (www://arabfamilies.org) and is considered an anchor to the media component of AMP11. The AFWG channel may be viewed at the following link: www.youtube.com/user/TheAFWG. The quality of the interviews was affected by the technology used for the interviews (skype). They will be redeployed as podcasts; but currently exist as six videos.

b. **Developing the AFWG Scholars Database.**

This is a searchable database of scholars who have an expertise in the topics of Arab families and youth. The Scholars' Database is considered another anchor in AMP11's media component, as the database will be promoted as a significant reason to visit AFWG's new website. The Scholar's Database has just under 100 templates to post. We are working out glitches in the search functions of the database.

c. **Expanding the AFWG bibliography on Arab families and youth.**

The bibliography provides the necessary scholarly foundation to the AFWG website. By expanding the bibliography, AFWG further enhances its ability to attract and retain new scholars to the website. The Bibliography had around 2,000 entries at the beginning of 2011. It currently has around 3,000 entries in its English database, covering over 100 years of research. The Arabic bibliography is more limited, but growing. Modest efforts were made to collect selections in French and German. These are posted on www://arabfamilies.org.

d. **Establishing a Facebook presence.**

This presence was facilitated by the creation of an AFWG Group Page. The Group Page consists of newsfeeds and updates from AFWG and links to relevant news items and articles about Arab families and youth. Additionally, video interviews with AFWG Core Group members are posted on the page. AFWG decided to limit this project as it required more constant monitoring than could be staffed.

e. **Re-conceptualizing the AFWG website from a static parking site to a dynamic communication site.**

This reconceptualization was accomplished via a series of weekly staff meetings, and several weeks of consultation with the AFWG Core Group. The outcome was

the move of the AFWG website from www://afwg.info to www://arabfamilies.org.

- f. **Establishing Wikipedia Pages for AFWG.** This was the brain child of Ryan Croken who worked as GSR for AFWG for one quarter. The idea was to put AFWG into more accessible formats, by having an article about AFWG and key AFWG Core Group members. Wikipedia's standard for articles requires that the group or person have considerable online citations/referencing which are external to the candidate and linked to Wikipedia, regardless of their worthiness. They published, and then removed the AFWG article and that on Eileen Kuttub. Currently those of Hoda Elsadda, Suad Joseph, Islah Jad, and Barbara Ibrahim are on the Wiki site but are requiring additional external citation.

Assessment of Foundation Phase: The Foundation Phase of AMP11 began on January 24 2011, and finished on April 29, 2011. All benchmarks were met on time. The Foundation Phase was perhaps the most time-consuming phase of AMP11.

A note about the consensus process: The AFWG Core Group operates on a consensus basis. All sixteen members of the Core Group must agree on an item or issue before that item or issue can be adopted as policy. Rarely, AFWG needs to go to a vote for a majority. The consensus process is, by nature, more time-consuming than a simple hierarchical or democratic process. Consensus assures a healthy debate and ensures that all participants' views are aired and considered. Consensus takes time. Thus, the consensus process merits mention here because the amount of time consumed by negotiating decisions over email. Once consensus was achieved within the Core Group over the direction in which to proceed, the Foundation Phase was executed successfully.

LAUNCH PHASE: OVERVIEW

The Launch Phase included the hiring of an Undergraduate Web Designer, Shobhik Ghosh to work with the team. The Launch phase consisted of four discrete tasks: The redesign and replacement of the AFWG website. Second, recording video interviews of AFWG members for posting on AFWG site and YouTube Channel. Third, augmenting and reconstruct the AFWG Bibliography. Fourth, augmenting and reconstructing the AFWG Scholars' Database.

LAUNCH: IMPLEMENTATION

The specific tasks that were accomplished during the Launch Phase were as follows:

1. The AFWG website was redesigned and rebuilt from scratch. A new "look and feel" (LNF) for the site was developed. The new LNF was designed to retain the best features of the original site, while modernizing the new site and making the experience more interactive with prospective visitors. To this end, key features of the original site were discarded. Among these features were: The stationary, non-interactive framework of the site; the color scheme; the lack of any multimedia

- experience for visitors; the lack of an anchor. The key element that was retained was the content itself. As a result, virtually all site content was migrated from the original site to the new site. Once construction was ready to begin on the new site, development of the LNF for the new site was begun. The URL of the old site, www.afwg.info, was discarded and replaced with the new site URL, www.arabfamilies.org. The new domain was purchased from GoDaddy for AFWG and GoDaddy was paid for hosting the site. By June, 2011, however, the AFWG website team decided that Drupal was a better hosting site and migrated the URL www.arabfamilies.org to Drupal for hosting only. The new site was designed using a combination of Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, Dreamweaver, and Drupal. Whereas www.afwg.info was primarily a data-parking site, www.arabfamilies.org was created as an interactive, multimedia site, designed to attract and retain repeat-visitors by offering and promoting several anchors. The new site features video and social networking interfaces. This new site was designed to meet AFWG's twin goals of amplifying its policy presence and enhancing AFWG as a source of research on Arab families and youth. The new AFWG site integrates the best features of the original site (such as the Scholars' Database and AFWG publications) with newer media features, such as video interviews with AFWG Core Members and links to AFWG's new YouTube channel.
2. An interview with Ms. Randa Osman, an AFWG staff member in Cairo, Egypt. This interview was conducted by Mr. Slatten at the AFWG Conference at the Rockefeller Foundation in Bellagio, Italy. The interview focused on the Cairo uprising. As a resident of Cairo, Ms. Osman was present for the January uprising and offered an invaluable perspective as a member of AFWG staff. The interview was presented to the Core Group during the Bellagio Conference for review as one template for the dynamic new website. The interview is now viewable on the new AFWG website.
 3. An interview conducted with Nadine Naber, a member of the AFWG Core Group in Ann Arbor, Michigan. This interview was conducted by Slatten at the University of California, Berkeley Law School in Berkeley, California. The interview focused on Naber's ongoing research on Islamophobia. Naber is an Associate Professor of Women's Studies and American Studies at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Prior to the interview she spoke at a Symposium on Islamophobia sponsored by the University of California, Berkeley. This interview is now archived and is available upon request.

The AFWG bibliography was augmented and reconstructed. The bibliography team consisted of two Interns at UC Davis and one GSR, one assistant at the University of Michigan (under Nadine Naber's supervision) and AFWG's Cairo staff member, Randa Osman. Osman focused on the Arabic bibliography, while other staff concentrated their efforts on Western languages, particularly English. A student assistant to Core Group member Nadine Naber carried out some of the searches for the bibliography. Randa Osman, the Cairo based GSA, researched the Arabic sources for the bibliography. By the end of December, nearly 3,000 items were in the bibliography. In January, 2012 Rusha Latif began editing and merging the work of the different Interns and assistants into a "Gold Copy" to be uploaded to the AFWG

website. The bibliography continues to be updated. The AFWG bibliography may be the most extensive bibliography in existence on the topic of Arab families and youth. It is posted on the AFWG website.

4. Significant progress was also made on the AFWG Scholars Database Project. Two Interns scoured the AFWG bibliography and the Middle East Studies Association membership list. Ultimately, a list of over 500 potential scholars for the database was identified. Subsequently, a template was created for the scholars to complete. Letters of invitation were designed with the intention of mailing them to prospective scholars. The website has been designed to receive their templates. In fall of 2011, over 500 letters of invitation were sent to scholars to fill out the templates to be included in the database. They are now being edited. A hitch with the search function of the database was discovered in February 2012. IT staff are trying to resolve the problem before launching the database publically.
5. Several articles were written for Wikipedia pages: One on AFWG, one for each of the following Core Group members: Suad Joseph, Hoda Elsadda, Barbara Ibrahim, Islah Jad, and Eileen Kuttub. Some Core Group members did not want Wikipedia pages, and some would not have qualified by the Wiki criteria. The AFWG article and that on Eileen Kuttub were removed by Wikipedia later.

LAUNCH PHASE: ASSESSMENT

The Launch Phase began on April 30, 2011 and was finished on June 30, 2011. All benchmarks were met on time. The best assessment of the Launch Phase is that it occurred during a time of staff transition. As the Launch Phase was being implemented, the spring quarter at U.C. Davis was coming to an end. This meant that most undergraduate intern staff was leaving Davis for the summer. Throughout the year, we held weekly meetings with all undergraduate staff and interns to ensure that their work was completed in a timely fashion. Additionally, Shobhik Ghosh was hired to implement the new AFWG website, in coordination with Nadine Naber and Zeina Zaatari (and their staff person), the AFWG website committee who had overseen the www.afwg.info site.

EXPANSION PHASE: OVERVIEW

The Expansion Phase consisted of expanding AFWG's presence and introducing the group to scholars and policy practitioners who might not yet know about AFWG's work. During this phase, the AFWG Core Group was sent all the materials developed and provided feedback and input on tasks that were in progress. Graduate student, Kevin Smith and Undergraduate Intern, Myriah Nottage joined the team in the Fall of 2011.

EXPANSION PHASE: IMPLEMENTATION

The specific tasks that were accomplished during the Expansion Phase were as follows:

1. **The Wikipedia Project.**

The purpose of the Wikipedia Project was to augment AFWG's expansion into the Marketplace of Ideas by establishing an AFWG presence on the widely accessed website, Wikipedia.org. Wikipedia is an informational site, featuring a virtually endless array of topics. Wikipedia articles can be created, posted, and edited by anyone. Once posted, articles are put through a rigorous peer-review process. Wikipedia articles about various AFWG Core Group members were written by AFWG GSR Ryan Croken and developed further by GSR Rusha Latif. These articles included specific information about each scholar's academic achievements, area of expertise, and affiliation to AFWG. The following AFWG scholars are featured on Wikipedia.org: Suad Joseph; Barbara Ibrahim; Islah Jad, and Hoda Elsadda (Eileen Kuttab's article and the one on AFWG were taken down by Wikipedia. We are currently trying to reestablish them).

2. **The Syllabi Project.**

The purpose of the Syllabi Project is to have the AFWG website serve as a central location for scholars who are teaching and/or conducting research on issues related to Arab families and youth. By adding their own syllabi to the AFWG website, each scholar adds to the body of knowledge on issues affecting Arab families and youth. The Syllabi Project was executed by the aforementioned team of interns. A list of scholars was developed from AFWG's bibliography. The Interns emailed the scholars inviting them to submit their syllabi. Approximately thirty per cent of the scholars contacted were returned as non-functioning emails. Additional efforts were made to find functioning emails. Half a dozen syllabi have been received for posting. We are formatting and editing five.

3. **The Scholar's Database.**

As previously stated, the purpose of the Scholar's Database is to establish a searchable database of scholars who have an expertise in the topics of Arab families and youth. The Scholars' Database is considered another anchor in AMP11's media component, as the database is promoted as a significant reason to visit AFWG's new website. Scholars were emailed from a massive internal database and requested to submit their templates. Interestingly, the return rate of non-functioning emails was significantly lower than that of the Syllabi Project. With the Scholar's Database, approximately ten per cent of the scholars contacted were returned as non-functioning emails. The list of scholars was developed from the directory of the Middle East Studies Association. Over 500 letters of invitation were sent to scholars to fill out the template for the AFWG database. Just under 100 scholars replied as of December 2011. Their templates are being edited for uploading. At the beginning of January 2012, we discovered a problem in the search function of Drupal, the program used for the database. UC Davis IT is working with AFWG PI and GSR to resolve the problem. Once this is resolved, the edited templates will be uploaded.

4. **YouTube Interviews:**

Video interviews were carried out by Steve Slatten (with Myriah Nottage's assistance) with Nadine Naber, Ray Jureidini, Barbara Ibrahim, Suad Joseph, Zeina Zaatari, and

Randa Osman to be edited for YouTube uploading. The interviews focused on the AFWG research carried out by Core Group members in brief formats, averaging 5-7 minutes each. Nadine Naber wanted to redo her interview and it was redone. Ray Jureidini's and Barbara Ibrahim's interviews were done over Skype. The visual quality was less than desirable for uploading. They were redone, with some improvement, but we still encountered problems with video quality. They are being reedited as podcasts, rather than YouTube uploads, by Anna Goldberg (2012 GSR) and Myriah Nottage. This project is in progress, and the interviews exist as videos at this point.

EXPANSION PHASE: ASSESSMENT

The Expansion Phase was perhaps the most challenging of the AMP11 Project. As we were developing the AFWG website the Core Group debated the "look" of the site. There were a range of views on the look which were discussed extensively by email over a number of weeks. Following AFWG's consensus policy, the views of as many as possible of the Group were accommodated, a vote was carried out, and the new site (www.arabfamilies.org) was formally launched in the Fall of 2011. For this we had purposed a new domain (arabfamilies.org) and a new host (Drupal Gardens).

An unexpected outcome of the move from www.afwg.info to www.arabfamilies.org is that someone bought the www.afwg.info url when we abandoned it. We discovered this in late Fall of 2011. Unfortunately, whomever captured that site also called themselves Arab Families Working Group. In their first iteration even referenced AFWG's founder, Suad Joseph. We tried to contact them to inquire who they were and why they were mimicking our group and site, but received no response. AFWG Core Group is considering options to resolve this matter as it is quite misleading. In addition, we discovered that, even though we had shut down the old AFWG website on the UC Davis server, it had been "spidered" by some big search engine. As a result, when Arab Families Working Group is Googled, the old UC Davis website comes up, even though it has been shut down at UC Davis. We are considering going to the Internet Ombudsman to address these internet issues.

The Wikipedia Project encountered moderate challenges. Wikipedia maintains a somewhat arbitrary, subjective, peer-review system. An article can be flagged for review by anyone who maintains a free Wikipedia account. Once flagged, other Wikipedia users are then free to review the article and determine whether or not they feel the article should remain or be removed from the site. If selected for removal, the article is scheduled for removal and the article's page will feature a red flag with a note that the article is scheduled to be removed. Once this occurs, the burden is then on the article's author to enhance the article with other noteworthy items. Initially, six articles were posted to Wikipedia. After approximately three weeks, two articles were removed, with articles remaining on Joseph, Ibrahim, Jad and Elsadda. The AFWG main article was removed as was the article on Eileen Kuttab. We rewrote it and posted it again; both were eventually removed again.

Despite the aforementioned challenges, the goals of the Expansion Phase were completed, albeit slightly off target of their original deadline. The Expansion Phase provided the main significant challenge of the AMP11 Project.

ENGAGEMENT PHASE

The Engagement Phase consisted of contacting scholars, members of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's), and members of Quasi-Non-Governmental Organizations (QUANGO's). This contact was conducted for outreach. While the initial implementation of the Engagement Phase was similar to that of the Expansion Phase, the Engagement Phase maintained the distinction of actively attempting to provoke a dialogue with members of the aforementioned groups. During this phase, the AFWG Core Group provided feedback and input on projects at hand; Joseph, Slatten, Kevin Smith and Myriah Nottage carried out the work in the Joseph Lab at UC Davis, joined from a distance by Randa Osman and Rusha Latif (who spent 6 months in Cairo). Core Group members worked in their sites for all these projects and continued working on their data analysis and writing. All projects in this phase were sent to the Core Group for their review, feedback, approval, and dissemination.

ENGAGEMENT PHASE: IMPLEMENTATION

The specific tasks that were accomplished during the Engagement Phase were as follows:

1. The Brochure Project.

The Brochure Project was a key component of the Engagement Phase. This phase consisted of consolidating the aforementioned AFWG policy briefs and placing them into quick-read format on a series of brochures. These brochures would, in turn, be mailed out to scholars and members of both NGO's and QUANGO's. Perhaps most important, the brochures were also translated into Arabic for distribution in Lebanon, Egypt, and Palestine, the key areas of AFWG's research. The brochures were created by Steve Slatten using Adobe InDesign software, condensing the policy briefs into a trifold, two-sided format. Each brochure was formatted for 8.5"x11" paper. Additionally, an electronic copy of each brochure was subsequently sent to Ms. Randa Osman, who then translated each brochure into Arabic. Brochures were printed on glossy paper and sent to members of the aforementioned groups.

This project consumed considerable time, as Core Group members needed to edit the briefs and brochures from their earlier work. A few Core Group members preferred that their earlier work not be put into briefs or brochures. Partly their reasoning was that they had moved forward in their thinking and the earlier work no longer captured their current frameworks. For some, the transformation from academic article to policy brief less convincing. Most of the briefs/brochures are in final editing phase..

2. The Documentary Project.

The Documentary Project was designed to showcase AFWG and provide a brief description of the organization to scholars, members of NGO's and QUANGO's in an entertaining and easy-to-follow format. The documentary, for lack of a better term, would serve as a kind of "infomercial" for AFWG, advertising for the organization and attracting more traffic to the AFWG website. The AFWG documentary was begun by Steve Slatten and Mariah Nottage and is still in progress. The documentary consisted of a background description of AFWG, followed by short sound bites from interviews conducted with the following Core Group members: Suad Joseph; Barbara Ibrahim; Ray Jureidini; Nadine Naber; and Zeina Zaatari. These sound bites were designed to support the narrative that was being discussed. The documentary was subsequently placed into a podcast format. Considerable work is yet needed to edit it.

3. The Promotional CD Project.

The Promotional CD Project was created to provide the most hands-on method of engagement possible. A series of promotional CD's were created with the intention of mailing them to scholars and members of NGO's and other professionals. Each CD is to contain the AFWG brochures; a sample of the AFWG Syllabi Project; a sample of the AFWG Scholar's Database; a link to the AFWG website; a brief profile of all AFWG Core Group members. The Promotional CD Project will provides a venue for disseminating AFWG work and creating new and return visitors to the AFWG website. This project is still in progress.

CONCLUSION OF AMP11 PROJECT

The AMP11 Project was ambitious in nature. As there was no precedent among AFWG for a project of this scope, there were challenges that had to be overcome, including different views among AFWG members about the efficacy of the messaging project or the relationship between their specific AFWG work and the AMP11. The debates over email and in Bellagio were extremely informative and formative for AFWG and in many ways further developed the dialogue in the July 2010 Barcelona policy workshop.

AFWG was initiated as a research network in 2001. It has grown, matured, and rethought itself numerous times over the almost 11 years of its life. While its impact will take some time to measure and assess, there is a strong sentiment within AFWG, that we have made a difference on the landscape of research and outreach related to Arab families and youth in Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine and their diasporas in the USA and Canada.

AFWG RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS:

Most members of AFWG concluded the research on their empirical projects in 2010 and devoted much of 2011 to writing up research results. Every Core Group member was expected to publish a minimum of one article/book chapter from their AFWG funded research.

AFWG Volume II: Bellagio Book: AFWG Volume II emerged from the March 2011 Rockefeller conference in Bellagio. That book is being co-edited by Suad Joseph and Penny Johnson: No More Forever: Youth, Family, and the Politics of Intimacy in a Changing Arab World. The deadline for submission of chapters for the book is March 2012. It consolidates the empirical research projects carried out by AFWG members into thematic conversations: THEMES: Colonialism, occupation, militarism, war; Danger and Crisis, or Crises of Futures and selves; Sexualities and intimacy; Movement and migration; Intimacy of Politics or the Politics of Intimacy; Youth and Families; Discourse & Talk.

All the Core Group members contributed to the AFWG Volume I, Framings: Rethinking Arab Family Projects which is posted on the www.arabfamilies.org website.

The majority of AFWG members have published or submitted one article for publication on their AFWG-funded fieldwork. The Core Group members were divided into two groups, one to submit a special issue for review and publication by the Journal for Middle East Women's Studies and one to submit a special issue to the International Journal of Middle East Studies.

The JMES issue was accepted and published in 2009. The articles are by: Suad Joseph; Islah Jad; Jihad Makhoul; Ray Jureidini; Mona Khalaf; Nadine Naber; and Penny Johnson, Annelies Moors and Lamis Abu Nahleh. This group published a special issue of the Journal of Middle East Women's Studies (already sent to IDRC) on the outcomes of the first phase of their empirical projects. Agreements were made with JMEWS to allow AFWG to translate the issue into Arabic. It was translated into Arabic by the Women and Memory for Translation group and posted on the AFWG website. Hard copies were distributed to numerous groups in Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine. The guest editors for this special issue were Penny Johnson and Suad Joseph who wrote an introduction to the special issue.

The IJMES special issue did not fare as well. IJMES is heavily an historical journal, publishing very little in the way of contemporary sociological/anthropological/cultural research. It is no accident that the one article they accepted and published was the one by AFWG historian, Omnia ElShakry. The rest were not accepted. The guest editor for this special issue had been Martina Rieker.

The group regrouped and revised and rewrote their articles for another special issue. However it was difficult finding a journal which would work for all their diverse articles. Some Core Group members felt they needed, for their careers, to publish in their disciplinary journals. Since disciplines of the Core Group, by design, are varied, it became difficult to find a common venue. As a result Jihad Makhoul (now on her third article for AFWG), Ibrahim Elnur and Eileen Kuttub decided to submit together to the International Migration Review, with Suad Joseph as guest editor. IMR said they were backlogged with special issues and rejected the idea of a special issue for AFWG. The articles were submitted to Journal of Refugee Studies. JRS rejected the idea of a special issue, but invited the articles to be submitted separately. The articles are now under review. In February, 2012, the UC Davis Journal of International Law and Policy expressed interest in this special issue. The Core Group members decided to wait to receive responses from JRS before considering UCDJILP.

Martina Rieker, Hoda Elsadda, Zeina Zaatari, and Barbara Ibrahim decided they would submit individually to different journals suited to their fields. Barbara Ibrahim published her AFWG project on the website of the John Gerhart Institute at the American University in Cairo. Zeina Zaatari co-authored an article with Nadine Naber and submitted it to the journal SIGNS, the leading feminist journal in the USA. Hoda Elsadda and Martina Rieker have preliminary drafts or reports on their research work, but have not submitted articles for publication to any journal to date.

AFWG TRAINING & MENTORING GRADUATE STUDENTS:

AFWG continued its work training and mentoring graduate students. Two workshops were organized in 2011: one in June and one in December, both at the Lebanese American University. Students were invited from throughout Lebanon. The majority of the students for the AFWG June workshop were from LAU and AUB. The December workshop was distinctive in that several of the students were from the Lebanese University, interestingly in the sciences and engineering. The workshops averaged 20-30 students and were held over a half-day session, in the evenings, to not compete with classes. Evaluations of the workshops were consistently high, with many of the students effusively thanking AFWG for this training.

In addition, AFWG invited and supported two advanced graduate students to the Rockefeller Center workshop in Bellagio, Italy, in March 2011: Lena Meari and Rania Salem. Lena Meari is a Palestinian student from Birzeit who had worked with Islah Jad, Penny Johnson, Eileen Kuttab and Lamis Abu Nahleh. She was completing her PhD in Anthropology at the University of California, Davis, working with Suad Joseph as her major professor. The second student, Rana Salem had been a graduate student researcher working with Barbara Ibrahim in Cairo at the Population Council, and worked with AFWG as a research assistant for over six months, co-authoring an article in AFWG Volume I with Sherine Hafez, an AUC graduate student who eventually came to UC Davis and completed a PhD in Anthropology, under the supervision of Suad Joseph. Rania was a graduate student at Princeton University. An evening was dedicated to each student. We read chapters from their doctoral dissertations and gave them extensive feedback for revisions. They attended the research components of the Core Group workshop at Bellagio. Since then, both have completed their PhD's. Lena Meari won the first Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Post-Doctoral Fellowship at Columbia University and is now revising her dissertation for publication. Rania Salem is on a postdoc. Sherine Hafez is an Assistant Professor now at University of California, Riverside and is under review for tenure this year. A number of earlier AFWG GSR's have also gone on to research or professional careers.

TRANSLATION TO ARABIC:

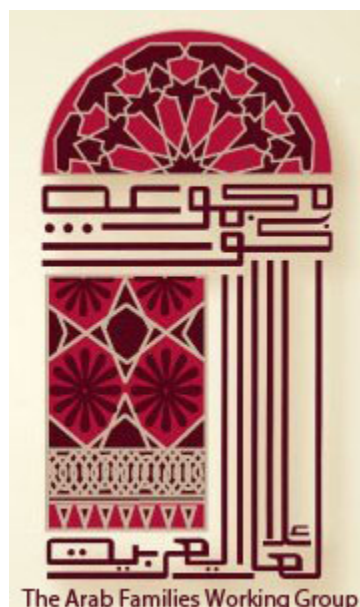
The training for research has included translation of key documents to Arabic. Suad Joseph has been teaching proposal writing and research design for over 30 years. She has developed a page on her website with extensive materials and guidance for scholars on proposal writing and research design. For the AFWG project, Joseph gave several of her key documents

for Arabic translation for the AFWG website. Randa Osman translated and AFWG Core Group members reviewed the translation. These documents are now posted on www.arabfamilies.org .

Earlier the AFWG special journal issue Journal of Middle East Women's Studies was translated into Arabic and put on the AFWG website.

In addition, the AFWG brochures based on the briefs of the Core Group's articles, once they are approved by the Core Group original author, are translated into Arabic and placed on the AFWG website. They are also printed and given to AFWG Core Group members for distribution.

APPENDICES AND ATTACHMENTS:



IDRC Final Technical Report

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 - i. Journal Of Middle East Women's Studies, Fall 2009
 - 1. Articles Included:
 - a. Johnson, Penny and Suad Joseph. "Introduction"
 - b. Johnson, Penny, Lamis Abu Nahleh and Annelies Moors. "Wedding and War: Marriage Arrangements and Celebrations in Two Palestinian Intifadas"
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- d. Jureidini, Ray. "In the Shadows of Family Life: Toward a History of Domestic Service in Lebanon
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- ii. El Sharky, Omnia. "Youth As Peril and Promise. The Emergence of Adolescent Psychology In Postwar Egypt." *International Journal Of Middle East Studies* 43 (2011): 591-610
- iii. Makhoul, Jihad, Mary Ghanem, and Farah Barbir. "Starting Over From Scratch: Social Support and Youth Coping With Internal Displacement." *Family and Community Health* 34.4 (2011): 340-48
- b. Presentations
 - i. El Nur, Ibrahim. "Blurb for Barcelona Presentation"
 - ii. Elsadda, Hoda. " AFWG Presentation-MESA 2011"
 - iii. Zaatari, Zeina "Presentation at MESA 2011"
 - iv. Ibrahim, Barbara. "Building the *Umma* 'Brick by Brick': Youth, Service and Pathways to Democracy in Contemporary Egypt" Presentation at Barcelona Conference.
 - v. Jad, Islah. "Group Wedding in Palestine Between Islamism and 'secularism' presented at the Barcelona Conference.
 - vi. El Nur, Ibrahim. "Panel: Conflict, Exclusion, Transnationalism and Arab Families." A panel coordinated by Ibrahim El Nur at the Barcelona conference.
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 - i. El Nur, Ibrahim. "Diaspora, Transnationalism and Remaking of Political and Social Spaces: Readings from Sudan." Submitted to the International Journal of Refugee Studies.
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 - iii. Makhoul, Jihad, Lena Torossian, Dima Dandachi and Yara Qutteina. "From Baghdad through Beirut: The Role of Social Support in Iraqi Refugees' Coping with Estrangement and Insecurity in Transit." Submitted to the International Journal of Refugee Studies.

- iv. Zaatari, Zeina. “Desirable Masculinity/Femininity and Nostalgia of the “Anti-Modern”: Bab el-Hara Television Series as a Site of Production.” Submitted to Signs.
- d. Not Submitted
 - i. Elsadda, Hoda, “AFWG Report Jan 2012”.
 - ii. Rieker, Martina. “Neoliberal Futures and the Girl Child”
- e. Online Publications
 - i. Ibrahim, Barbara. “Youth Activism and Public Space in Egypt.”
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 - iii. Abu Nahleh, Lamis. “Mother-Daughter Relationship: Conflict, Care, and Love.”
 - iv. Khalaf, Mona Chemali. “Exploring the Migration of Lebanese Families to the Arab Gulf.”
 - v. Naber, Nadine and Zeina Zaatari. “Re-Imagining Family, Gender, and Sexualiyu: Feminist and LGBT Activism in the context of the 2006 Invasion of Lebanon.”
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